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PRE-BERLIN CONFERENCE DEVELOPMENTS - II

Soviet embassy in Vienna preparing for Austrian talks:
A high Soviet embassy official in Vienna has told an American official that the embassy is making considerable preparations for Austrian treaty negotiations at Berlin, and attaches great importance to them. At least one member of the embassy will attend the Berlin conference, and there have been published reports that Ambassador Ilichev will be there. Various Soviet officials in Vienna have hinted within the last two weeks, however, that an Austrian treaty is still dependent on a German settlement and that agreement on an Austrian treaty at Berlin is improbable.

USSR allegedly favors a study of unification:

25X1 [redacted] at the Berlin conference the USSR will propose that an inter-allied commission "study" German reunification. A Soviet maneuver of this type is not unlikely, but probably would be used only after a stalemate had developed.

25X1

25X1 [redacted] the East German government will propose, probably before the conference, separate elections in East and West Germany for two parliaments, and that a third, all-German parliament be chosen either in the same elections or by the new parliaments. A proposal along this line would not strictly conform to the past Soviet position that a provisional government must be formed prior to elections, but without a stipulation for truly free elections it would not represent a compromise.

USSR adamant at preliminary Berlin meeting:

25X1 [redacted] the Soviet delegate at the preparatory meeting in Berlin did not agree to have the conference in the former Allied Control Authority building in West Berlin nor to a proposal to hold three out of four meetings in the Western sectors.

This move is not surprising as an initial bargaining position and may reflect a Soviet desire to use all issues which may postpone a debate on the German and Austrian problems.

State Dept. review completed

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